

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /020 W

-----211336Z 023560 /46

R 211215Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9644

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2127

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 11-18, 1977. THESE REPORTS ARE FRAGMENTARY AND CANNOT IN ALL CASES BE FURTHER CONFIRMED.

2. MAR. 11: FEDERAL POLICE OPERATIONAL CENTER ALERTED ALL PATROLS THAT THEY EXPECTED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON THAT DATE AND TO INTENSIFY PATROLLING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTORS.

AT 2050 HRS. A POLICE PATROL CAR WAS ATTACKED AT MENDEZ DE ANES 800 BY OCCUPANTS OF A FIAT 1500. THE ATTACKERS USED HAND GRENADES AND SHOTGUNS IN THEIR ASSAULT ON THE POLICE VEHICLE. THE ATTACKERS THEN FLED THE SCENE. THERE WAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK.

MAR. 13 FEDERAL POLICE WARNED THAT TERRORISTS WOULD SET EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN PARCELS AND BAGS AT DIFFERENT POINTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY, INCLUDING PUBLIC
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PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

MAR. 14: ACCORDING TO LA PRENSA, A BOMB EXPLODED AT THE HOUSE OF HECTOR LEFRANCOIS, LOCATED AT BARTOLOME MITRE 339. HE IS THE DEAN OF THE ECONOMIC SCIENCE FACULTY, UNIV. OF BUENOS AIRES.

ON THE SAME DATE, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN LA RAZON, ON MAR. 14 A BOMB EXPLODED AT JURAMENTO 1411 OUTSIDE THE HOME OF MR. MORANDINI, AN EXECUTIVE OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY.

ON THE SAME DATE, AT TEMPERLY IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, 3 TERRORISTS (2 MEN AND A WOMAN) WERE SHOT DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH SECURITY FORCES. THE POLICE CONFISCATED WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND TERRORIST DOCUMENTATION. NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS INCIDENT.

MAR. 16: AT CARLOS GARDEL AND J. JAURES STSS. POLICE PERSONNEL IN A PATROL CAR WERE INVOLVED IN A SHOOTING WITH A MAN PRESUMED TO BE A TERRORIST. THE MAN WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG, ESCAPED AND WAS LATER RECAPTURED AND TAKEN TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL.

MAR. 17: LA RAZON REPORTED THAT 3 TERRORISTS WERE SHOT DEAD DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH JOINT SECURITY FORCES. SECURITY FORCES ALSO CONFISCATED ARMS AND AMMUNITION THAT HAD BEEN LOCATED IN A HOUSE CONTROLLED BY THE TERRORISTS AT CAMINO DE CINTRUA AND ASCASUBI.

3. RSO MET WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S PROTECTIVE DETAIL TO DISCUSS TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. SOURCES STATED THAT THE TERRORISTS HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE CONFIDENTIAL

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SETBACKS AND ARE IN A WEAKENED STATE. THEY HAVE HAD NO RECENT SUCCESSES AND ARE PRESENTLY WORKING IN SMALL CELLS TO PREVENT PENETRATION BY GOVT FORCES. THEY ARE HAVING A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING PERSONNEL AND IN OBTAINING WEAPONS.

4. SOURCES STATED THAT IN PREVIOUS OPERATIONS THE MONTONEROS WOULD USE AS MANY AS 5 AUTOMOBILES AND 20 MEN. PRESENTLY THEY ARE REDUCED TO USING TWO AUTOMOBILES WITH 2-3 MEN IN EACH CAR. THEY HAVE BEGUN WIDER USE OF BOMBS AND IN THIS RESPECT HAVE SHOWN SOPHISTICATION IN MAKING CLAYMORE-TYPE MINES AND TERRORIST YEAST BOMBS DESCRIBED IN DEPT CABLE 4473.

5. THE MOST SERIOUS THREAT POSED BY THE TERRORISTS AT THIS TIME IS THROUGH THE USE OF REMOTE CONTROLLED EXPLOSIVES. THEY CAN BE PLANTED IN A CAR OR ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND CAN BE DETONATED WHILE A TARGETED PERSON IS PASSING BY.

6. SOURCES STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS NOT A PRIME TARGET, IT COULD BECOME A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY TO ANY SMALL TERRORIST CELLS WORKING INDEPENDENTLY. TERRORISTS HAVE RECEIVED SUCH SEVERE SETBACKS THAT THEY REQUIRE SOME TYPE OF SENSATIONAL ACT TO KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF A VIABLE FORCE IN ARGENTINE POLITICS. AN ATTACK ON A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WOULD ACHIEVE THIS. SEE BUENOS AIRES AIRGRAM A-29.

7. SOURCES STATED THAT THE SECURITY FORCES DO NOT EXPECT ANY SURRENDER ON THE PART OF THE TERRORISTS; THAT IS IS A TOTAL WAR TO THE FINISH AND THAT THE GOVT WILL WIN. HOWEVER, IT STILL MAY TAKE SEVERAL YEARS FOR COMPLETE VICTORY.

8. RSO COMMENT: THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY COUP IS MAR. 24, 1977. SOME POLICE SOURCES SPECULATE THAT
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TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON OR ABOUT MAR. 24 WILL GIVE AN INDICATION OF THEIR RELATIVE STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS02127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770096-0343
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770340/aaaabirg.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25835cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3052659
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PINS, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25835cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009